

Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC)

Virginia Department of Emergency Management (VDEM)

Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT)

SEVERE WEATHER April 28 2008

SITUATION REPORT # 8

1100 Hours May 5, 2008

The next Situation Report will be May 6, 2008 at 1100 hours.

SUMMARY

In the afternoon hours of April 28 a storm system moving across the Commonwealth generated rain, wind and tornadoes. National Weather Service (NWS) updated their count of confirmed tornadoes to a total of 8; two EF 0 tornadoes - Gloucester and Mathews Counties, five EF1 tornadoes in the City of Colonial Heights and the counties of Brunswick, Surry, Isle of Wight, and Halifax. In addition, NWS confirmed an EF3 tornado in the City of Suffolk. Multiple injuries reported but no storm related deaths reported. Visual graphics are available at: [Suffolk radar indicated tornado](#); [Brunswick radar indicated tornado](#).

EXECUTIVE ACTION

- EOC Activation:** The VEOC has transitioned to Recovery Operations with normal staffing and continues to monitor recovery operations. Recovery Operations will be coordinated by VDEM Recovery Staff at the Arboretum Complex.
- State of Emergency:** At 1855 hours 28 April, Governor Kaine declared a state of emergency for the severe weather that impacted the Commonwealth. Governor Kaine visited Suffolk on 29 April. [Executive Order #65 \(2008\)](#)
- Federal Declaration:** No declaration has been requested at this time. The ERT-A Team is on site at the VEOC including Public Assistance and Individual Assistance staff from the Region III Disaster Assistance Division. Small Business Administration (SBA) Disaster Assistance contact will be working in both Colonial Heights and Suffolk.
- Protective Actions:** Local Emergency Declared:
City of Suffolk declared a local emergency at 1625 hours 28 April.
Colonial Heights declared a local emergency at 1555 hours 28 April.
Isle of Wight declared a local emergency at 0830 hours 29 April.
Brunswick County declared a local emergency at 0930 hours 29 April.
- Local Emergency Operations Center Activated:
City of Norfolk 28 April at 1650 Hours on behalf of City of Suffolk. City of Norfolk closed at 1918 hours as City of Suffolk communications were restored.
City of Suffolk Open.
- ESF 15 – External Affairs:** Fielding local, national and international media inquiries, providing public information and awareness for tornado and disaster preparedness and promoting cash donations for casualties of the recent Virginia tornadoes. [Tax Relief Granted for Victims of Tornadoes](#)

WEATHER

- Forecast:** Monday, 5 May: Mostly sunny with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms after 1400 hrs in areas of South Central and Southeastern VA; high temps low to mid 70's; winds 5-10 MPH. Monday Night: Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2000 hrs in areas of South Central and Southeastern VA; low temps mid 40's to low 50's; winds 5-10 MPH. Tuesday, 6 May: Sunny; high temps low to upper 70's; winds 5-10 MPH

OPERATIONS SECTION

Local Liaison:

Region 1 Coordinator Wills assisted National Weather Service with flyovers of impacted localities on 29 April. Region 3 Coordinator Cocker completed damage assessment and storm survey with Halifax County Emergency Management and NWS Blacksburg on 29 April. Region 2 Coordinator Sterling assisted City of Suffolk and Region 5 Coordinator Twigg on 29 April. Region 5 Coordinator Twigg demobilized on 2 May and is available to assist City of Suffolk if needed.

EMERGENCY SERVICES BRANCH**ESF 8 – Public Health and Medical Services:**Virginia Department of Health (VDH)

Western Tidewater Health District (WTHD) staff at Suffolk EOC. Virginia Beach, Western Tidewater, and Chesapeake Medical Reserve Corps (MRC) activated and supporting American Red Cross. Portsmouth MRC is on call. Currently planning for “Community Clean Up” scheduled for 10 May

Tetanus vaccinations and boosters are being provided to all residents and first responders at Suffolk Health Department and Suffolk Disaster Response Center.

VDH reported patient treatment and admissions as of 1030 hours 30 April:

City of Colonial Heights – approximately 20 treated and released

Sentara Obici Hospital – 70 patients treated, 3 admitted – current condition “improving”

BonSecours Maryview – 3 patients treated and released

BonSecours Harborview Health Center – 3 treated, 1 admitted – current condition “improving”

Southampton Memorial Hospital – 2 treated and released

Approximately 122 patients treated by local Emergency Medical Service, physicians’ offices and emergent care centers

Virginia Department of Mental Health (DMHMRSAS)

Western Tidewater Community Services Board (CSB) has over 70 staff deployed to support the City of Suffolk, Suffolk Schools, Department of Social Services, Salvation Army and local churches. CSB staff has been deployed since 30 April to Hill Point, Burnett’s Mill, Driver, Saddler Heights and the Suffolk Disaster Response Center in support of mental health issues. CSB staff has provided crisis counseling and has arranged groups for families and children to assist with normalization efforts and residual emotional concerns. Those undergoing crisis support are also eligible for pre-paid phones and Wal-Mart cards. CSB has made their fleet of vehicles and staff available to transport individuals and goods. CSB staff deployment rotations will continue throughout the weeks ahead and begin to become more targeted to individuals and families expressing trauma symptoms.

ESF 13 – Public Safety and Security:Virginia State Police (VSP)

VSP currently has **12** troopers on special assignment in Suffolk supporting impacted jurisdictions. **27 troopers demobilized over the weekend.**

HUMAN SERVICES BRANCH**ESF 14 – Long-term Community Recovery****Initial Damage Assessment Reports:**

<u>Locality</u>	<u>Private</u>	<u>Public</u>
Colonial Heights, City of	\$2,000,000	\$0
Halifax County	\$500,000	\$0
Isle of Wight County	\$184,000	\$0
Portsmouth	\$60,000	\$0
Suffolk, City of	\$28,405,508	\$2,740,919
Brunswick County	\$650,000	\$0
James City County	\$217,000	\$0
Total	\$32,016,508	\$2,740,919

Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment was completed on 1 May in the City of Suffolk. State and federal representatives also surveyed the City of Suffolk in regard to Public Assistance - public property, debris clearance and emergency response. Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments were completed in the City of Colonial Heights and Brunswick County on 2 May. Results of the Joint Preliminary Damage Assessments that were conducted May 1-2 were evaluated by VDEM and FEMA. The Commonwealth did not meet the threshold for federal disaster assistance as most properties impacted had insurance. ***The Disaster Response Center continues to experience brisk attendance and the city will evaluate and determine hours of operation for the remainder of the week. Representatives from Virginia Employment Commission and Social Security were integrated into the Center that includes representatives from city departments, state agencies, private insurance companies, and voluntary organizations. There were a few complaints received at the Center in regard to insurance settlements. Gift Cards were distributed by Tzu Chi Foundation/United Way and approximately 30% of the funds allocated were disbursed. Guidance has been requested from the Virginia Department of Accounts in regard to Section 44-146.17 of the Code of Virginia (Powers and duties of the Governor), item 10 which states the following: "Whether, in the opinion the Governor or his designee, an employee of a state or local public safety agency responding to a man-made or natural disaster has suffered an extreme personal or family hardship in the affected area, such as the destruction of a personal residence or the existence of living conditions that imperil the health and safety of an immediate family member of the employee, the Governor may direct the Comptroller of the Commonwealth to issue warrants not to exceed \$2,500 per month, for up to three calendar months, to the employee to assist the employee with the hardship. The Virginia Department of Fire Programs and the City of Virginia Beach indicated that there may be a few public safety personnel involved with this incident that may be eligible for this assistance.***

The City of Suffolk submitted their Notice of Interest to seek assistance under the state Public Assistance program for eligible costs. The city also submitted preliminary cost estimates associated with their response and recovery operations to VDEM.

ESF 17 – Volunteers and Donations

Virginia Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD) conference call was held on 29 April at 1700 hours. The following are highlights from the call: Operation Blessing reported providing 300 meals at the request of the American Red Cross on 29 April for emergency workers and responders. The Southern Conservatives have 6 debris/chain saw teams on standby to respond on 30 April to assist with debris removal. Baptist General Convention has child care teams on standby. The Salvation Army has 3 canteens operational. The Convoy of Hope is deploying teams to Suffolk to assist with debris removal. The United Methodist Conference volunteers are working with feeding stations and will continue through the week.

The United Way of South Hampton Roads is coordinating all volunteer efforts regarding the tornado response. The Food Bank of Southeastern Virginia delivered two truckloads of food to Suffolk.

ESF 6 – Mass Care

The American Red Cross reports that a total of 4,555 meals had been served as of 4 May. A total of 157 Red Cross workers of which 142 were volunteers, have been involved in the relief effort to date. No Red Cross Shelters are opened at this time and housing is being provided on a one-to-one basis. A service center has been set up in Brunswick County to begin casework. Currently working with Mercy Chefs and Operations Blessing and surrounding churches. The Red Cross Service Center is located at the Westminster Reformed Presbyterian Church located at 3488 Godwin Blvd. Suffolk, VA. Those wishing to make donations please see the Virginia Department of Emergency Management website at www.vaemergency.com, "How You Can Help."

LOGISTICS SECTION

ESF 7 – Resource Support *VDEM is supporting one active resource requests. Eight requests have been completed and 3 requests have been cancelled.* All localities have been given access to the State Emergency Services contract.

PLANNING SECTION

ESF 5 – Situation Unit Preparing Situational Reports, monitoring WebEOC entries and maintaining situational awareness

Mapping/GIS Unit Providing support to localities and state agencies

LOCAL ACTIVITIES

City of Suffolk: Jurisdiction shelter at Kings Fork High school closed as of 1000 hours 30 April. As of 0930 hours 30 April, all roads are now open. All schools opened as of 1 May. The EOC is at full operational level from 0800-2000 hrs and at limited operational level from 2000-0800 hrs. The National Capital Region Incident Management Team was relieved by the Tidewater Incident Management Team on 2 May. A curfew for impacted areas remains in effect from 2300-0700 hrs. A contractor re-entry program has been established and contractors and residents must register at the Disaster Response Center. Debris removal operations continue and right-of-ways and Route 460 should be completed by 4 May. Fire and EMS units remain on scene assisting residents and providing EMS/fire protection and services in hardest impacted areas. ***The Disaster Response Center located at Suffolk Recreation Center at Kings Fork Middle School is operational from 1000 hrs – 2000 hrs and is expected to be operational through at least Monday, 5 May. The City will evaluate and determine hours of operation for the remainder of the week. A follow up Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 8 May 1900 hrs, at Kings Fork Middle School. Approximately 633 volunteers have participated in the response and recovery efforts, donating 3,671 hours. 78 work orders have been accepted and completed by volunteers in the disaster area. Suffolk Police Department has established a Valuables Recovery Center for personal belongings to be dropped off and residents can reclaim them. A Community Cleanup Day is scheduled for Saturday, 10 May. Individual projects will be matched with United Way volunteers. The City Attorney's Office is drafting a letter with assistance from VDEM reference mortgage payments that will be presented to City Council on Wednesday, 7 May, for approval.***

Suffolk Animal Control provided a Hotline information number for missing/found animals (Suffolk Dispatch at 757-409-7729). An emergency trailer with 24 trained staff is co-located with Humane Society of the United States at Suffolk Animal Control with 60 cages for missing/found animals. All animals will be "microchip" scanned. Virginia Beach SPCA has returned to Virginia Beach. No more animal feed is needed for donations.

York County: The Hampton Roads Metropolitan Medical System (MMRS) Strike Team was requested by the City of Suffolk to assist with tornado related medical needs. This response includes the activation of both the Southside Logistics Cache (City of Norfolk) and the Peninsula Logistics Cache (York County) and the Peninsula Communications Cache (York County). All units responded.

City of Chesapeake: Deployed five engines, one ladder truck, one tactical rescue vehicle, a Battalion Chief, three Medic units and an EMS officer to the City of Suffolk under mutual aid. HazMat 5 is currently serving as mobile command post in City of Suffolk.

City of Colonial Heights: Major damage reported in and around the Southpark Mall area.

Isle of Wight County: Fourteen homes were reported with minor to moderate damage with total cost damage assessment of \$184,000.

Halifax County: Region 3 Coordinator Cocker assisted NWS Blacksburg and local Emergency Management with storm survey and confirmed an EF1 tornado caused major damage to

two homes, minor damage to one home and slight damage to three homes. All homes were insured. Four sheds were observed to have major damage or be destroyed.

Brunswick County: Region I Coordinator Wills reported that the flyover was completed on 29 April and NWS Wakefield confirmed an EF1 tornado touched down with winds between 86-100 MPH. It had a 1 mile path that was 250 yards wide. 14 homes were damaged and the estimated damage is \$650,000.

City of Portsmouth: Four members deployed as part of the MMRS Strike Team. Portsmouth Amateur Radio-ES (PARES) deployed 9 members to Suffolk City.

City of Newport News: Providing 40 police officers (2 shifts of 20 officers) to the City of Suffolk. Officers have been deployed from Newport News to Suffolk in support of emergency operations.

James City County: 10 homes impacted, with one residence uninhabitable. Estimated damage totals \$217,000.

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